



# MINERAL COUNTY

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH and PLANNING

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February 2, 2011

Senator Debby Barrett, Chair  
Senate Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 200400  
Helena, Montana 59620-0400

SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES

EXHIBIT NO. 2

DATE 2/2/11

BILL NO. SB 239

RE: Letter of Opposition to Senate Bill 239 - Temporary Prohibiting DEQ Enforcement Authority for Public Water Systems

Dear Senator Barrett, Chair and Committee Members:

In the opinion of the Mineral County Environmental Health and Planning Department, this legislative proposal is not in the best interest of the residents and visitors in this county. We rely on the current system of monitoring provided by the Department of Environmental Quality to insure the safety of our public water supplies.

A small county such as Mineral could not realistically handle the increased responsibility of tracking public water supplies in the absence of State oversight. In my opinion, this creates potential significant health risk that should not be forced upon a small county that has numerous transient public water supplies.

I ask that you oppose this legislation.

Sincerely,

Tim Read, R.S.

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Mineral County Environmental Health and Planning Department